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Message Text

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45
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 USIE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 IO-12 RSR-01 /134 W
---------- 041303
O P 251800 Z MAY 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 249
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
USLOSACLANT PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
COMICEDEFOR PRIORITY

S E C R E T USNATO 2583

E. O. 11652: GDS 12-31-81
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MARR, IC
SUBJECT: ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE: MAY 25 NAC DISCUSSION

BEGIN SUMMARY: SEVERAL ALLIES BELIEVED THAT NATO SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A LOW- PROFILE IN FISHERIES DISPUTE. SYG LUNS HINTED WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE HIS GOOD OFFICES, BUT ALLIES BELIEVED HE SHOULD CONFINE HIS ROLE TO PRIVATE, UNOFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. MILITARY COMMITTEE BRIEFED COUNCIL ON LARGE- SCALE SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE NEAR ICELAND. END SUMMARY.

1. NAC DISCUSSION STARTED WITH BRIEFING BY CHAIRMAN OF MILITARY COMMITTEE ON LARGE- SCALE SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE BEING HELD NEAR
SECRET

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ICELAND. SEE SEPTEL.

2. LUNS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN ICELAND, PARTICULARLY STATEMENT BY FISHERIES MINISTRY HOLDING NATO

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RESPONSIBLE FOR FISHERIES DISPUTE. LUNS NOTED INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FISHERIES IMBOGLIO, ARTICLE VII ISSUE, AND QUESTION OF ICELAND' S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. HE REPORTED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED PRIVATELY TO ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER GOOD OFFICES.

3. ICELAND (TOMASSON) SAID HE WOULD CONVEY MILITARY COMMITTEE REPORT AND LUNS EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT, BUT ONLY TOOK NOTE OF LUNS OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES. NO ONE ELSE PICKED UP LUNS' OFFER, ALTHOUGH BELGIUM (DE STAERCKE) SAID THAT LUNS MIGHT MAKE PRIVATE, UNOFFICIAL INQUIRIES INTO POSSIBILITIES FOR RESOLVING THE DISPUTE.

4. LUNS ASKED NORWEGIAN PERMREP ABOUT REPORT THAT NORWAY MIGHT MEDIATE THE DISPUTE, BUT BUSCH DID NOT REPLY. UK PERMREP (PECK) ASKED FOR A DEFINITION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US- GOI AGREEMENT AND THE DEFENSE OF ICELAND. LUNS REPLIED THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY EXPRESSES A GENERAL OBLIGATION FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE IN CASE OF AGGRESSION AND THAT THE US- ICELAND AGREEMENT WAS DESIGNED TO BETTER SECURE THE DEFENSE OF ICELAND. PECK DID NOT PURSUE THIS LINE OF QUESTIONING. LUNS THEN ASKED PECK WHAT UK INTENTIONS WERE IN THE DISPUTE. PECK RECALLED HIS MAY 21 STATE-MENT TO THE COUNCIL (USNATO 2527) AND SAID THAT THE UK IS WILLING TO GO BACK TO NEGOTIATIONS AND TO WITHDRAW ITS NAVAL PROTECTION AS SOON AS IT IS KNOWN THAT HARASSMENT OF BRITISH FISHING TRAWLERS WILL CEASE. PECK THEN EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT' S APPRECIATION FOR THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT' S RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE IN OFFERING IMMEDIATE COMPENSATION FOR THE DAMAGE TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN REYKJAVIK.

5. TURKEY FELT THAT NATO AND SYG LUNS SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN THIS DISPUTE IN THAT NATO IS BECOMING A FACTOR IN THE INTERNAL DEBATE IN ICELAND. DRAWING UPON STATE 100768 AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR CAUTION. ITALY CONCURRED.

RUMSFELD
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO02583
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730558/abqcdzsl.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE: MAY 25 NAC DISCUSSION
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MARR, IC
To: STATE INFO SECDEF
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
LONDON
OSLO
REYKJAVIK

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USUN
PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE
COMICEDEFOR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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